

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 51 of 1880.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th December 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	6th December 1880.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	7th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	7th & 14th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	12th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	10th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	1st & 8th ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
15	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
16	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	13th ditto.
17	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
18	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinia, Rangpore	250	9th ditto.
19	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	
20	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	6th ditto.
21	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	13th ditto.
22	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	11th ditto.
23	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	6th ditto.
24	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....	11th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
25	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	9th to 14th December 1880.
26	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	13th to 17th ditto.
27	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	8th, 13th, & 15th ditto.
28	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	10th to 17th ditto.
29	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	8th, 9th, 14th, & 16th December 1880.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
30	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	11th December 1880.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	9th ditto.
32	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	
33	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	6th ditto.
34	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	11th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	10th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
37	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

SAHACHAR,
December 6th, 1880.

THE *Sahachar*, of the 6th December, welcomes Lord Ripon to Calcutta, and prays that His Excellency's rule may continue to be as auspicious as his advent to this country. Within a few days of his landing in India, the British army became victorious in Afghanistan, from which they have subsequently returned. Peace has now been restored in that country. There have been good crops reaped, and the impoverished people of Bengal are rejoicing. The natives of India are really glad at Lord Ripon's advent and would receive him with smiling faces. And yet they are afraid of doing this. They are afraid lest the spectacle of prosperity should lead him to think that the nation has no grievance. It is for this that, while really desirous not to trouble His Excellency on the occasion of his arrival at the Presidency with an enumeration of their grievances, the people would yet crave permission to remind him of the existence of the license-tax, and of the Arms and the Press Acts—measures which have caused extreme hardship.

SAHACHAR.

2. The same paper contains a summary of some of the recommendations made by Mr. Caird for improving the character and efficiency of the Indian administration. While agreeing in Mr. Caird's observations upon Indian civilians, the editor is opposed to his view regarding the desirability of making the military service predominant. An exchange of the civil servants for military officers is not at all desirable, and would be like courting one danger in order to avoid another. Mr. Caird is entitled to the gratitude of the people of India for his generous sympathy with the native peasantry. But one cannot approve of either of the two measures proposed by him with a view to ameliorate their condition. Mr. Caird would suggest the introduction of a permanent settlement of land throughout all the provinces of India. One would rather like to see the settlement abrogated in Bengal. His second proposal, namely the payment of rent in kind, is equally of a retrograde and objectionable character.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 6th, 1880.

3. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 6th December:—
Durbars and Famines.

The advent of a Viceroy to India is almost always signalized by two things—a durbar and a famine. The first is the occasion of rejoicings; native chiefs and officials and wealthy men from different parts of the country flock to the durbar, and there is lavish expenditure of money. When Lord Lytton was mad with the excitement of the Delhi durbar, there was famine in Madras and Bombay. And when Lord Ripon was busy with the durbar at Lahore, symptoms of an impending famine were observable in the North-Western Provinces. If there should be really a famine in those parts, the prospect must indeed be gloomy. Government is now without money and saddled with debt. It is also embarrassed in other ways. There was not one of these disadvantages in existence when there was famine in Madras and Bombay. And yet, in spite of the prosperous condition of the finances at that time, more than five millions of people perished for want of food. The only ground of hope this time appears to lie in the fact that the Liberals are now in power; that Lord Ripon and not Lord Lytton is now at the head of affairs in India. Already the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, who, on a former occasion showed himself quite indifferent to distress, has signified his intention of opening relief works. Still, it would seem, the Lahore durbar has not been opportune. Possibly Lord Ripon found that a durbar was necessary in order to restore confidence in the British Government in the minds of

the native feudatory chiefs, and generally to repair the wrongs produced by the measures of Lord Lytton's administration.

4. The same paper gives in a summarized form the observations recently made by Mr. Caird on (1) the Indian Civil Service; (2) the collection of revenue; (3) the introduction of a permanent settlement of land all over India; and (4) the division of the whole country into six administrative charges. The editor fully recognizes the wisdom of these proposals, and remarks that if they should find favour with the authorities, the Bombay and Madras famine, which originally suggested the appointment of the Famine Commission, would come to be regarded as an auspicious event. There is, however, it is added, very little chance of Mr. Caird's suggestions being agreed to.

5. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 13th December, in noticing Mr. Caird's proposals for the abolition of the Governor-Generalship and larger employment of natives in the public service, remarks that they are not marked by any originality. They are, however, such as will commend themselves to every unprejudiced mind; although it is not likely that Government will act upon them.

6. The same paper notices with gratification that a proposal has been made to Russia to come to a settlement with England on the question of a frontier line in Central Asia. This is precisely what the *Som Prakásh* has consistently suggested for a long time past.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

7. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 1st December, contains an article descriptive of the present mode of serving a summons issued by a civil court upon any person. It is required that the serving officer should be accompanied by some one on behalf of the parties for the purpose of identifying the person to be served with the summons. This arrangement, prescribed by a circular order of the High Court, is quite unnecessary and occasions considerable hardship and expense, particularly when the person to be served happens to live at a distant place. The summons contains all the particulars regarding the name and residence of the person whose presence may be deemed necessary; and it is really strange that the peon should be unable to serve it unless accompanied by some one for the purpose of identifying the proper party. The service of summons is a part of the court's duty; and as a matter of fact, the peons do not require the services of another in the matter of identification when their good will has been secured by some means or other. The subject should receive the attention of the proper authorities.

8. The same paper refers to the inconvenience and expense to which suitors are subjected by the practice of the civil courts of carelessly fixing a day of hearing on which the case is not, as a rule, heard, and of repeatedly postponing the day. The parties, in the meantime, accompanied by their witnesses, have to dance attendance successively for many days.

9. The same paper, in its first notice of the draft Rent Bill, commends the British Government for a generous consideration for the rights of the people which has characterized it since its advent to this country. The tenantry, who constitute the great mass of the people, were never so well off under any previous Government. Both Hindu and Mahomedan sovereigns were nothing if not oppressors and extortioners. The British Government, on the contrary, has always shown a tenderness for the rights of the people; and it is to the

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
December 6th, 1880.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 13th, 1880.

SOM PRAKASH.

HINDU RANJIKA,
December 1st, 1880.

HINDU RANJIKA.

HINDU RANJIKA.

existence of this feeling that the present measure, the draft Rent Bill, is due. It has been framed entirely in the interests of the tenants, and thus necessarily it is calculated to prove injurious to the interests of the landlords. If the measure becomes law, a blow will be dealt at the root of the Permanent Settlement. It is not certainly either fair or politic to do any act which, while it may promote the happiness of one class, will have the effect of bringing misery upon another. The editor then proceeds to a detailed examination of the Bill, and remarks, in reference to section 6, that it is not fair that there should be any distinction made, so far as regards their character, between the proprietary right possessed by Government in its khas mehals and the same right possessed by a zemindar in a permanently-settled estate. Section 9.—Since the zemindars are allowed by Government profit at the rate of ten per cent. only, there is no reason why the tenure-holders should be paid at the rate of thirty per cent. The purport of sections 10-23 is that enhancement should be gradual, and the enhanced rent is not to be more than double the previous rent. Both provisions are objectionable. This fixing of a limit to enhancement will affect injuriously the interests of the landlord, particularly in cases where through the operation of any natural cause an increased fertility is brought about. Enhancement in such cases up to the limit fixed would bring but small profits to him, while, on the other hand, he would be liable to considerable loss owing to the power which the tenant possesses of relinquishing any land whose productive powers might have deteriorated. If it were possible for Government to lay down that the fertility of land should not, under any circumstances, exceed double of what it was before, then only might the fixing of a limit of enhancement such as is proposed in the Rent Bill be considered equitable. As it is, in the interests of the landlords, Government should rule that the ryots should continue to hold land, good as well as bad, at the existing rates of rent, but that they will not, in future, be allowed to give up any land on the ground of its having lost in fertility. Without some such provision, the zemindars would be placed at a great disadvantage.

SAHACHAR,
December 6th, 1880.

10. The *Sahachar*, of the 6th December, in an article on the report of the Rent Law Commission, remarks that the definition of proprietor as given in the draft Bill appears to be defective, inasmuch as it is supposed that a proprietor must necessarily be in possession. Would not a proprietor, kept out of possession, be regarded as such? The definition should include both the fact and the right of possession. The writer then takes exception to the fact that in the draft Bill different degrees of tenure are recognized. The evils of subinfeudation are dwelt upon, and the legislature asked not to encourage it in future.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
December 6th, 1880.

11. The *Srihatta Prakash*, of the 6th December, remarks that no reason could be adduced in favour of the proposal to abolish the Office of Press Commissioner. The office has proved itself greatly useful in supplying the press with correct official information, in the absence of which newspapers would often go wrong, and do harm by their writings.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 7th, 1880.

12. On the same subject the *Bharat Mihir*, of the 7th December, observes that the Office of Press Commissioner, a medium of communication between Government and the newspaper press, is really necessary in a country where there are no representative institutions and which is ruled by foreigners. The actions of the rulers, however well-intentioned, are always liable to be misconstrued, and it is the duty of the press to place them in their true character before the public. But the press can only adequately discharge

this duty if Government keeps it well informed regarding its doings and motives. The Office of Press Commissioner was created for this purpose, and its abolition, which is said to be contemplated, will be an extremely unwise step. The office should continue, but it is necessary that it should be placed on a reformed and sound basis. In the first place, the Press Commissioner's *communiqués* should be made really valuable and furnish information regarding important public questions. On this point the news communicated by him has been always found uninteresting. The fault, of course, was not his, but of the Government which does not apparently like the light of public discussion. In this matter it is desirable that Government should follow a more liberal course. Secondly, the telegrams which at one time used to be received by native newspapers from the Press Commissioner's office proved expensive though perfectly useless; they reached almost at the same time as the English dailies containing them. Thirdly, the news communicated to the vernacular newspapers should not be always of the same kind as that supplied to the English prints. Readers of native papers are not, for instance, at all interested to learn of the different appointments and transfers in the army, or to make themselves familiar with the sporting news, the fluctuations of the money market, and the daily meteorological reports—matters which find a proper place in an English daily paper. It might be suggested in this connection, that the Press Commissioner might render a valuable service to the native press, if he could arrange with the Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates to supply it with information respecting topics possessed of a local interest. Lastly, the native papers should be placed on the same footing with English journals as regards the supply of official papers and reports. At present, the former do not receive even one-fourth the number of publications which are given to the latter.

13. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 8th December, continues his observa-

Draft Rent Bill.

Limit of enhancement.

tions on the draft Rent Bill. The provision that the enhanced rent should, on no account,

be more than double the previous rent is objected to on the ground that in Bengal land often increases in fertility, owing to the operation of some natural cause without the employment of the tenant's labour or capital. In such cases, and particularly if the tenant grew valuable crops, the landlord would be simply a loser if he could not enhance the rents to any limit beyond that which is laid down in the Bill. There is no reason why the legislature should think it proper to exclude the landlord from his fair share of the unearned increment. Mistaken notions regarding the ryot's poverty and zemindar's affluence seem to have taken possession of the minds of the rulers, and hence this tenderness to the former at the latter's expense. The days of oppression and extortion are gone by. The ryots have now learnt their rights and begun to assert their position by going to law. The law courts also look upon them with favour. Possessed of a rude plenty they are, in fact, better off than the so-called educated natives who spend their lives in the service of Government. The zemindars, on the contrary, are now weak and impoverished, and seldom venture to engage in disputes with their tenants.

Section 11 introduces a change of an extremely unreasonable character. Suppose a person, with a view to raise crops sufficient for the requirements of a large family, rents a piece of land measuring 100 bighas in extent. Now, after his death, the property being divided among his sons, the share belonging to each may not exceed 15 or 16 bighas in extent. Would even these persons, who are properly tenants, be tenure-holders? Section 12 is not necessary. It is usually the practice with tenants, before renting any land which needs reclamation, to calculate the probable cost of bringing

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
December 8th, 1880.

it under cultivation, and accordingly make his terms with the landlord. The new provision will cause hardship to the jungleburi tenants for whose benefit there were certain wise rules framed at the time of the Permanent Settlement. Section 13.—The meaning of the word "Permanent" should be more clearly defined. Section 16.—In Explanation II it is desirable that the words "with the consent of the proprietor or superior tenure-holder" should be inserted after the words "separated or transferred from other land which formed with it a single holding." Section 18.—It is not fair that increase or abatement of rent for alluviated or diluviated land, respectively, should be determined by the rent of adjacent land, because land gained by alluvion is generally found to be very fertile. Section 19.—The provision regarding the growth of a right of occupancy will prove extremely injurious to landlords.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
December 9th, 1880.

The Press Commissioner.

14. The *Samvād Prabhākar* suggests the continuance of the Press Commissioner-

ship on an improved basis.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 11th, 1880.

15. The *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 11th December, dwells on the important services rendered to the public by the Press Commissioner's office, and regrets to

notice that a proposal has been made to abolish it. There can not be the least doubt that the office is exceedingly necessary for the purpose of promoting good feelings between Government and the people. That Anglo-Indian as well as vernacular newspapers have occasionally passed strictures upon the institution has been only with a view to have it reformed and made more efficient. The editor exhorts his contemporaries of the press to send in a joint memorial to the Viceroy, praying for the continuance of the Press Commissionership.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA,
December 11th, 1880.

16. The *Tripurā Vārtāvaha*, of the 11th December, contains an article headed Committees and Native Members.

It is remarked that, although the object of Government in appointing native gentlemen of position as members of the Road Cess, the School, the Hospital, and other Committees is unquestionably a good one, still, owing to an obsequiousness which too often characterizes these men, on account of their dependence on the Chairman for appointment and dismissal, that object is not always attained.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 12th, 1880.

17. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 12th December, contains an article on the Rent Bill, in which it is observed that the measure is extremely hostile to the inter-

ests of the landlords. Already their privileges have been curtailed by Act X of 1859 and the imposition of the road and the public works cesses. Sufficient time should be given to the public for an expression of opinion on the Rent Bill. The views of the newspaper editors who are mostly without landed property, and of Calcutta millionaires who prefer buying Government paper to investing in land, should not be allowed to have much weight in deciding the question which is now before Government.

DACCA PRAKASH.

18. The same paper expresses himself in favour of the continuance of the Press Commissionership. The office, however, should be placed on a sound footing

as regards the supply of news, particularly to the native papers. The value of the weekly reports on native papers, as a means of keeping the rulers informed of the wants and grievances of the native public, is pointed out, and it is hoped that the preparation of a *precis* of the articles in the vernacular journals will be a part of the duty of the Press Commissioner.

DACCA PRAKASH.

19. The same paper notices, with gratification, that the authorities have at last done justice to the circle pundits, a most hard-worked, but ill-paid class of men. At the instance of the Inspector of the Eastern

Grades introduced among the circle pundits.

Circle, the Director of Public Instruction has sanctioned a graduated scale of pay for these public servants, whose claims had long been overlooked.

20. The *Som Prakásh* expresses great concern at Lord Ripon's illness, and prays to God that His Excellency may be soon restored to health.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 13th, 1880.

21. The same paper writes a long article on the license-tax. The objections to a direct tax in this country are set forth at length, and the article concludes by asking Government to abolish the impost as early as practicable.

SOM PRAKASH.

22. In commenting on the draft Rent Bill, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 13th December, asks Government to decide the question after patiently hearing both sides.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 13th, 1880.

Both landlords and tenants have reasonable grounds of complaint. The former had asked for a measure which should give them facilities for collecting rent, and a Bill is framed which curtails their rights and privileges to a considerable extent. Government should further consider whether the relations between landlords and tenants in Bengal have really come to such a pass as to require a legislative enactment of so sweeping a character as the present Bill. If the efforts of Government to improve the status of the tenantry prove unsuccessful, and the relations between the parties become increasingly embittered, it will be the weaker party, of course, that will suffer; and this is a consideration which should be allowed due weight. The hasty manner in which Mr. Reynolds is collecting the views of the public in regard to the proposed law is not satisfactory.

23. The same paper fully endorses the views expressed by Sir Ashley Eden on the subject of the partial remission of the import duties on Manchester piece-goods in a recent resolution in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and hopes that the Government of India will profit by them.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

24. In an article on the proposal to abolish the Press Commissionership, the same paper expresses views similar to those noticed in paragraph 12 of this, and paragraph 20 of our last, report.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

25. On this subject the remarks of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th December, fully coincide with those of the *Sádháraní* noticed in our last report, with this difference, however, that the editor would not have any objection to the continuance of the office if it were but radically reformed.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
December 14th, 1880.

26. The *Prabháí*, of the 16th December, learns with gratification that Sir Ashley Eden has done justice in the case of the Brahmin constable who was subjected to gross indignities by Mr. Campbell, the Judge of Backergunge. Condign punishment has been meted out to the high-handed Judge.

PRABHATI,
December 16th, 1880.

27. The same paper writes in favour of continuing the Office of Press Commissioner. The arguments adduced are similar to those already noticed.

PRABHATI.

28. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 17th December, contains a sketch of the official career of Sir John Strachey. The great influence which he possessed and exercised over more than one Viceroy during the long period of his service has proved injurious to the interests of the people of India. He has shown himself an able man, but devoid of sympathy. The discovery of the serious error in his last budget estimate ruined his reputation as a financier, and is the cause of his retirement. He was for a long time in India, and it is to be regretted that now, when he is about to leave it, the people can not bid him farewell with a grateful heart.

ARYA DARPAN,
December 17th, 1880.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 18th December 1880.

